

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

M. DOUGLAS BENSON, PhD, §
Plaintiff §
§
v. §
§ Civil Action No. 3:25-cv-540
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY §
Defendants. §
§

DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL

NOW COMES Defendant Texas A&M University and files this Notice of Removal and respectfully shows this Court the following:

1. This removal is pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). Removal is proper pursuant to U.S.C. § 1441(a) because Plaintiff's suit involves issues under federal law. 28 U.S.C. §1331. Plaintiff M. Douglas Benson asserts wrongful termination and retaliation, and raises issues with Defendant Texas A&M University's application of Title IX related to his employment throughout his Original Petition. *See* Plaintiff's Original Petition. Plaintiff also cites 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b) to establish venue. *See* Plaintiff's Original Petition ¶ 2.

2. There is a federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28. U.S.C. § 1331 as plaintiff asserts Title IX in his Original Petition related to his causes of action. Federal district courts are courts of limited jurisdiction and have subject matter jurisdiction over "all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States." 28. U.S.C. § 1331. Because the Plaintiff is the master of his

complaint, whether Plaintiff's cause of action presents a federal question “depends on the allegations of the [Plaintiff's] well-pleaded complaint.” *Davoodi v. Austin Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 755 F.3d 307, 309 (5th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Medina v. Ramsey Steel Co.*, 238 F.3d 674, 680 (5th Cir. 2001)).

3. This action was originally filed in the 162nd Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas, as Cause No. DC-24-11531. Plaintiff is M. Douglas Benson; Defendant is Texas A&M. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because the state court where the suit has been pending is located in this district and division. That said, Defendant requests that this matter be transferred to the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division because Texas A&M's venue provision under Tex. Educ. Code § 85.18(b) mandates that venue would have been in Brazos County, Texas, where the primary office of the chief executive officer, President Mark Welsh, is located had the matter remained in state court.

4. Plaintiff filed his state court action on July 30, 2024, asserting allegations related to 20 U.S.C. § 1681 (Title IX). The court determined in its February 7, 2025 Order Denying Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment that Plaintiff had not properly served Defendant Texas A&M University in this matter. Despite this, Defendant Texas A&M University made its first appearance in the case with the filing of its Response to Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment on February 3, 2025. Defendant also filed its Answer on February 7, 2025. Defendants have thirty (30) days in which to remove. 28 U.S.C. §1446(b). Therefore, this removal is timely.

5. Plaintiff did not make a demand for a trial by jury within his Original Petition.
6. A copy of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon, or by, Defendant in the state court suit are being filed with this notice as required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(a). Further, Defendant has complied with the Northern District of Texas Local Rule 81.1.
7. Defendant will promptly file a copy of this notice of removal with the clerk of the state court where the suit has been pending. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).
8. This Notice of Removal is filed subject to and with full reservation of rights. No admission of fact, law or liability is intended by this Notice of Removal, and all defenses, motions, and pleas are expressly reserved.

PRAYER

ACCORDINGLY, Defendant pray that this cause be removed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

Respectfully Submitted,

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First Assistant Attorney General

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/s/ Anthony Dolcefino
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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of foregoing was served through CM/ECF filing, on this the 4th day of March, 2024, to:

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